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message, to generate an alarm upon the receipt of said alarm signal, to receive input speech following said alarm generation and determine whether the input speech contains said voice command, and to synthesize said speech sounds and produce said message as an audible output upon the detection of said voice command.

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10. (Amended) The apparatus as defined in Claim 8, wherein said hands free kit circuitry is further adapted to store a plurality of voice dialing mode data, and to determine, after said alarm generation, whether said input speech corresponds to any of said voice dialing mode data and if so to synthesize sounds of the corresponding voice dialing mode data without synthesizing sounds of said short message.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. The Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwelb et al. (U.S. Patent 5,950,123) in view of Peterson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,178,398). This rejection appears to include claims 9 and 10 as well. The Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwelb et al. in view of Peterson et al., further in view of Klatt ("Review of text-to-speech conversion for English"). The Examiner has rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwelb et al. in view of Peterson et al. and Klatt and further in view of Marui (U.S. Patent 4,959,850).

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to address the §112, second paragraph rejections raised by the Examiner. Claim 5 has also been amended in a manner similar to the amendments of Claims 1 and 8. The amendments are for clarification, and not for purposes of patentability. Based on the amendments, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1 and 8 is respectfully requested.

In addition to the above-recited amendments, Claim 5 has been amended to clarify the preamble. During the interview between the Examiner and the Applicant's representative, Michael J. Musella, the Examiner raised question as to the clause "and to dial" recited in the preamble of Claim 5. It was explained that "and to dial" is just an additional "control function" of the apparatus, and not the only control function. Claim 5 has been amended to delete "and to dial", an amendment for clarification and not for purposes of patentability.

With respect to the rejections of Claims 1, 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Examiner states that all of the elements of the claims are disclosed by a combination of Schwelb et al. in view of Peterson et al. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The claims of the present application recite that the handset transfers the received short message to the hands free kit, wherein the hands free kit synthesizes the short message into speech sounds or sound data to be converted into audio signals, the transfer occurring upon receipt of a predetermined voice command input by the user. As these limitations are not taught or disclosed by the cited references, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1, 5 and 8 is respectfully requested.

Finally, Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 9,

which is cancelled 9 without prejudice. Claim 10 has been amended to depend from Claim 8.

Independent Claims 1, 5 and 8 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-4, 6-7, and 10, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2-4, 6-7, and 10 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-8 and 10, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Requirements as per C.F.R. § 1.121 (c)(1)(ii)

Rewritten claim(s) marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of claim(s):

1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for synthesizing speech sounds to express a short message received in a wireless communications system in a handset coupled to a hands free kit, comprising:

handset circuitry for transferring an alarm signal to said hands free kit to generate an alarm to inform a user of the receipt of said short message, and for transferring said short message to said hands free kit when receiving a short message calling signal from said hands free kit; and

hands free kit circuitry for synthesizing [said speech sounds according to] said short message received from said handset into said speech sounds;

wherein said short message calling signal is generated upon input by the user of a predetermined voice command.

5. (Twice Amended) In a hands free kit coupled to a handset, said hands free kit comprising a sound data storage for storing sound data to control functions [and to dial] by voice, and a sound element code storage for storing sound element codes representing respective alphabet letters, a method for synthesizing speech sounds to express a short message, comprising the steps of:

generating an alarm upon receiving an alarm signal from said handset to inform the user of the receipt of a short message and detecting whether speech is input;

detecting whether said sound data storage contains sound data having substantially the same sound characteristics as said input speech;

detecting whether said input speech is a sound synthesis command if said sound storage contains sounds having the same sound characteristics as said speech, said sound synthesis command being a voice command input by a user instructing said hands free kit to process said short message as an audio output;

transmitting a short message calling signal to said handset upon detecting said sound synthesis command;

detecting said short message received from said handset;

analyzing said short message and synthesizing [sound data corresponding to] said short message into sound data by reading sound element data from said sound element code storage according to the analyzed result; and

converting said synthesized sound data into analog audio signals applied to a speaker.

8. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for synthesizing speech sounds to express a short message received in a wireless communications system in a handset coupled to a hands free kit, comprising:

handset circuitry operative to transfer said short message to said hands free kit upon input by a user of a predetermined voice command; and

hands free kit circuitry adapted to synthesize [said speech sounds according to] said short message received from said handset into said speech sounds;

wherein said handset circuitry is further operative to transfer an alarm signal to said hands free kit upon the receipt of said short message, and said hands free kit circuitry is further adapted to store a voice command indicating a desire for a user to hear a short message, to generate an alarm upon the receipt of said alarm signal, to receive input speech following said alarm generation and determine whether the input speech contains said voice command, and to synthesize said speech sounds and produce said message as an audible output upon the detection of said voice command.

10. (Amended) The apparatus as defined in Claim 8 [9], wherein said hands free kit circuitry is further adapted to store a plurality of voice dialing mode data, and to determine, after said alarm generation, whether said input speech corresponds to any of said voice dialing mode data and if so to synthesize sounds of the corresponding voice dialing mode data without synthesizing sounds of said short message.